



March 8, 2000

Honorable John M. Phillips  
Presiding Judge, Coordinated Trial Courts  
Post Office Box 1819  
Salinas, California 93902

RE: **1999 Grand Jury Response**

Dear Judge Phillips:

Please accept this response -to the findings and recommendations regarding the Methamphetamine and other illegal drug problem in Monterey County.

**1. Law enforcement agencies approach the methamphetamine problem, as a distinct entity not related to other drug enforcement activities.**

The addiction to illegal substances is a major problem for all California communities. It's been my experience as a police officer that the popularity of drugs changes from time to time. In Monterey County, I have seen the choice of drugs change from marijuana to heroin in the 1970's, heroin to cocaine to PCP in the 1980's and now methamphetamine in the 1990's. All of these drugs result in the destruction of families, crime, violence and impact the entire justice system. We will strive for prevention, through education like the DARE and GREAT Programs, public awareness presentations and enforcement for all drug narcotic categories.

**2. Law enforcement agencies be required to submit information concerning all arrests relating to methamphetamine to the press in the form of press releases rather than simply indicating such in the daily activity log.**

Currently our local paper has access to our public information log, which provides more information than the typical police log. We have personal daily contact with our local press and make every effort to provide information regarding arrests for drugs, gang violence and other newsworthy law enforcement activities. It is common practice for this department to provide the local media with a press release on any significant event that occurs within the city limits.



**3. Law enforcement agencies develop a coordinated communications plan so that methamphetamine information can be effectively shared by all agencies.**

Monterey County law enforcement agencies can more effectively coordinate this information via the county wide CLETS system and the TRAK computers. We will make every effort to utilize existing communications networks to pass on information.

- 4. The Monterey Board of Supervisors (BOS) seek the means for funding special methamphetamine-abatement personnel and programs.**
- 5. The BOS seek the means of funding environmental clean up of legally seized methamphetamine-related properties, and execute the resale of such properties as a means of funding increased anti-methamphetamine activities.**


The City would support the BOS if funding is available to the county for abatement personnel/programs and environmental clean up of methamphetamine contaminated property.

**6. The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the purchase of a meth-trained canine.**

The city acknowledges the usefulness of a meth-trained canine, however, recent fair labor standards lawsuits involving canine handlers in the state have made the purchase and implementation of canine programs in small agencies cost prohibitive. We will pursue technology being developed which can detect the odor of methamphetamine.

**7. The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the training and placement of more meth-qualified deputies in the field.**

The POST Basic Academy requires training in the identification, use and manufacture of methamphetamine. In addition, POST has excellent advanced officer training tapes available on methamphetamine. Our department will continue to provide updated training in the area of methamphetamine recognition, use and manufacture.

  
Alfred Perez, Lieutenant  
Soledad Police Department

c: Mayor and Council  
City Attorney